

Battle Ground Town Council

Meeting Minutes, January 16, 2017

Attending: Steve Egly, Council President; Mike Bird, Greg Jones, James Miller, Greg Schroeder, Clerk Treasurer Georgia Jones. Attorney Eric Burns did not attend and there were no guests.

Steve Egly opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the town's relationship with the Water Conservancy District board and consider a request to build a water tower at the well field location. The land is used by the conservancy however is deeded to the town. Additions to the agenda 1) request to vacate easement and 2) employment review.

The parcel combination at Northgate for Speedway has prompted a request to vacate a utility easement. **Motion** by Greg Schroeder to authorize Butler Fairman and Seufert engineers to communicate with the developer, investigate the options and recommend a solution to the council. Second of Greg Jones, motion carried. 5 Aye, 0 Nay.

New part-time employee Larry Bickett is nearing 60 days employment anniversary.

Motion by Steve Egly to approve a \$.50 per hour raise, effective Sunday January 15. Second of Greg Schroeder. Mike Bird withdraws from a decision on this topic. Motion carried. 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Abstain.

Steve Egly reviewed the history of the town water utility, which started as a municipal utility in the 1920's. In order to accomplish some financial objectives, the town council in 1977 passed Ordinance 157 which petitioned the circuit court to create a conservancy district. The council acted as the governing board for the district however they extended service beyond the town municipal boundary. At that point the district was required to have a separate board and the 1983 amendment to the District Plan established a nine-member board independent of the town council which was to be elected the area served.

The Council is interested in having water and wastewater service combined in one utility. Attorney Eric Burns was requested to research and inform the council what options might be available to change the current organization structure. A third party consultant might be engaged to determine the financial impact of any proposed change.

Motion by James Miller to approve the Conservancy request to locate a replacement water tower at the current site of town well field. Second of Mike Bird, motion carried. 5 Aye, 0 Nay.

A meeting for open discussion with two representatives of the Conservancy Board will be requested, Feb 2 or Feb 9 are available dates.

Motion to adjourn, 8:42 p.m. by James Miller.

Georgia Jones, Clerk Treasurer

Steve Egly, Council President